



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

New Training Mandate

January 22, 2008

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: William N. King, Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: Mandatory Gang Awareness Training for School Administrators

On October 12, 2007, Governor Jon S. Corzine signed new legislation that requires public school administrators to attend a mandatory gang awareness seminar. The newly enacted bill, S-1748, requires the Attorney General, in coordination with the Commissioner of Education, to develop seminars to teach school administrators to recognize signs of gang involvement or activity. The new law also requires that a seminar on gang awareness be held annually in each county for all public and nonpublic school administrators. Beginning mid-late January, the Attorney General and Commissioner of Education will commence county training sessions. Your County Superintendent will notify you about a training date(s) for your county.

The county training sessions will discuss topics relating to gang awareness and be facilitated by trainers from various law enforcement agencies. Administrators will learn about the general warning signs of gang affiliation, gang signs, markings and identifiers, as well as gang language. Additionally, administrators will also learn why kids join gangs and what parents can do to prevent their children from joining.

Gangs are no longer just a big city or inner city problem. Today, they cross all ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, gender and geographic boundaries. Gangs and gang-related activities impact every community, including New Jersey suburbs. Early intervention is the key to gaining the upper hand on gangs in New Jersey. Law enforcement alone cannot end gang violence. However, by working together, law enforcement and education professionals can help to protect children by deterring and disrupting gang-related violence, and by discouraging children from joining gangs.

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c: Commissioner Lucille E. Davy	Barbara Gantwerk	Garden State Coalition of Schools
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